

Grace Church Visitor.

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Interests of the Grace Reformed Church,

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

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DECEMBER, 1897.

No 9.

GRACE REFORMED CHURCH,

EAST WASHINGTON ST., BETWEEN BARR AND LAFAYETTE.

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, PASTOR,

• Residence, 96 East Washington St.

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SABBATH SERVICES:

Sabbath School, 9:30 A. M.
Church Services, . . 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M.
Y. P. S. C. E., 6:45 P. M.
Prayer Meeting, (Wednesday,) . . . 7:30 P. M.

OUR mid-winter Communion Service will be held Jan. 23.

The young people will give a valentine social Feb. 14.

The Christmas market was a success. The ladies have learned something new again.

The Catechitical class meets every Sunday morning at 9 o'clock in the auditorium of the church.

EVERY member of the church should join the Home Department of the Sunday School. Read everything in this issue of the VISITOR about this department.

MR. FRED. SCHNEIDER, of Arcola, recently left ten or twelve bushels of oats at the parsonage for the pastor's horse. These kind remembrances are always appreciated and thankfully received.

THE subscriptions for the Reformed Church Tidings have expired. The pastor will be glad to renew the subscriptions for any of the members. Every family should have this paper. The subscription price is only ten cents for the year.

The following officers have been appointed by the consistory for the Sunday School for 1898: Superintendent, A. K. Zartman; assistant superintendents, L. W. Hills, George Soliday; secretary, Walter Close; treasurer, Mrs. C. H. Gumpfer; librarians, Willie Walters and Lottie Bitner.

A CANVASS will be made very shortly of the church with a view of raising a thousand dollars or more to be applied upon the loan of the church, and to meet the arrearages in the current expenses. The consistory will be glad to receive any suggestions that the members may have to offer in reference to this matter. What we want is unanimity of thought, of purpose and of action. Let every member take this matter into advisement, making it also a subject of prayer, and be in readiness to do just what the Lord may direct.

SOME THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR, 1898.

The opening of the new year is always a profitable time for reflection, and to formulate plans and resolutions for the future. There is wisdom in looking backward, at times, as well as in looking forward. A careful survey and inventory of the past will enable us to know something of our possibilities for the future. The success of our future depends largely upon our knowledge of the past and the present. The capital on hand at the close of the old year is one of the determining factors of the success in the new. The water in the mill-dam in the morning determines largely the revolutions of the water-wheel for the day. Before we go into the battles of the new year we should make a careful inventory of our resources at hand. As Christians let us seek to know where we stand, what our needs and our possibilities are, and then let us throw ourselves with might and main into the work of the new year. We need to know our weaknesses and failures of the past, that we may guard against them in the future, and then let us know that for every emergency in the year there is a reserve power in God for us. The Christian will never be content to be the same man at the end of the year that he was at the beginning. Growth, advancement in Christ, and for Christ is the Christian's watchword. Anything short of this is unchristian and must result in spiritual degeneracy. The Christian man always sets his mark high for the year, and then he throws himself with all his might into the conflict to win his prize. We cannot foretell what the year may have in store for us, how much of sunshine or shadow, of peace or conflict, what of life or death. But this does not matter. The outlook for the Chris-

tian is always bright and happy. Health or sickness, poverty or riches, life or death, the victory always belongs to God's people. "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." "For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." "I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me." So says the great Apostle Paul. Let us look into the face of the new year with courage and delight, and let us have on the full armour of God for the work, and as the days and moments come let us put the best we have into them for the Lord. Then we shall have the happy consciousness that we have done our full duty.

THE HOME DEPARTMENT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

A Home Department of the Sunday School has been organized for 1898. This new department of the Sunday School work will be pushed as rapidly as possible. We hope to have every family in the church in this department. The supplies are at hand and we are eager to enlist all that we can in this work.

"The Home Department of the Sunday School is that part of the school whose members agree to study at least half an hour each week at home the International Bible Lessons. It is composed of all persons who for any reason are unable to attend regularly the sessions of the Sunday School. Many are deprived of the privilege of the study of the Bible in the regular service of the Sunday School on account of age, infirmity, sickness, care of young children, necessary work, distance from the church, absence from home, etc. There are many families living in isolated neighborhoods or communities where there is neither public worship nor Sunday School. Then there

there are those whose business takes them away from home most of the time, so that they cannot regularly go to any Sunday School, such as commercial travelers, railway employes, students, professional and public men. The Home Department exists to aid these classes of people.

"The Home Department is a necessity, because multitudes of people cannot attend the Sunday School situated as they now are; and because the Sunday School is the church assembled, studying and teaching the Word of God, and as such, it includes all, old and young, within its membership. It is to be remembered, too, that the Sunday School is the only provision the church has made for the systematic and associated study of God's Word; hence the necessity of increasing its departments so as to bring all in the church—and all in the world, if possible, under its influence.

"The Home Department is divided into Home Classes. The size of the Home Class depends upon the number that can be reached. A Home Class may consist of but one only, if no more can be added to it; or it may be composed of all members of the family not already in the main school. Several families in the neighborhood may be enrolled in a Home Class. The duties of the members are to study the Sunday School lesson at least half an hour each week, to keep an accurate record of the study of each week, and to report such study to the visitor of the Home Department; and to make a weekly offering to the benevolent objects of the Sunday School, as well as its own support. Attendance upon the sessions of the main school is to be considered as a duty, when circumstances allow.

"Membership, enrollment, recognition and fellowship, visitation and supervision by a Visitor, direct relationship with the pastor,

the supply of Lesson Helps, free use of the library, and a cordial invitation to attend all church and Sabbath School services, picnics, entertainments and social gatherings." In case they are not members of the congregation, they should receive, as do the members, the religious visitation of pastor and officers, and have their sympathy and fellowship, watch and care, especially in times of joy or sorrow."

MR. AND MRS. JAMES EVARD have not forgotten that preachers are fond of chicken. They remembered the pastor's family with some very fine Plymouth Rock specimens for the holiday season.

REV. PARLEY E. ZARTMAN has accepted a call from the Reformed Church at Three Rivers, Mich., and has entered upon his work there. We are glad to have Mr. Zartman and his estimable wife in a parish in St. Joseph classis. They are pleased with their new home and their people, and the people are pleased with the new pastor and his wife. Three Rivers is a very pleasant place to live in, and a fruitful field for labor. We shall hope to hear very favorable reports of the work in the Three Rivers charge.

THE Christmas exercises on Christmas evening were greatly enjoyed by the large audience present. The children and young people never before did their work more creditably. Every part was rendered with entire satisfaction. The large attendance speaks well for the entertainments given by the Grace Church Sabbath School. The people are always assured that they will have a treat when they come to our entertainments. At the close of the exercises the scholars were all invited into the lecture rooms of the church and there were presented with their Christmas boxes. The net receipts of the Christmas offerings amounted to \$41.00.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, Editor and Publisher.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

A. K. ZARTMAN, L. W. HILLS, S. DUKEMAN.

Subscription, 25 cents per year in advance.

Entered at the Post-Office at Fort Wayne, Ind., as second-class matter.

MISS NELLIE FRENCH has been very sick with typhoid fever, but is now improving rapidly.

MISS MAUD CHALLENGER, one of the young ladies in the Sabbath School, is just recovering from an attack of typhoid fever.

MISS NELLIE RUDISIL, after an illness of several months, is again able to be out, and hopes to be at church and Sunday School soon.

MOTHER WEICKERT is in poor health all winter. We hope the weather may soon become more favorable, so that she can again come to our services.

MRS. JAMES VINING and Mrs. Zartman recently made a visit to Columbia City and spent a day with Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Paulus. They had a very pleasant time, as might be expected. Mrs. Paulus had been quite ill for a few weeks, but is now again in her usual health.

REV. JESSE STRING, of Bluffton, called at the parsonage Thursday, Dec. 23rd. We were glad to have our brother with us and only regretted that he could not remain much longer. He speaks very encouragingly of his work in the Bluffton charge, and is well pleased with his new home in the west.

MR. AND MRS. DUKEMAN have moved to Hicksville, Ohio. We regretted very much to see them leave the city. We hope to see them back to our services often. They will still hold their membership in Grace church, and we shall hope they will make their home in Fort Wayne again in a few years.

MARRIAGE.

WILLIAM BOGER and Serena Warner were united in marriage at the parsonage, Thursday, Nov. 18th. Bride and groom are both residents of the northern part of the county, and are very pleasant and highly respected young people. Their home will be near Springfield, Ind. We hope their married life may be prosperous and happy.

NEW METHODS FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR 1898.

1. Grading of the scholars on three points: *a*, attendance and good behavior, on time; *b*, lesson study and bringing Bible or Quarterly to the school; *c*, bringing offerings. If the scholar makes these three points he is graded 100. A failure in one of these points means a deduction of 10 per cent. in the grading.

2. If the pupil is perfect in all three points for the entire quarter, his name is then placed upon the Roll of Honor, which has been provided, and the scholar receives a star on the roll as a special mark for his faithfulness, and also a red badge to wear. At the end of the second quarter the scholar receives a white badge; third quarter, blue badge; fourth, iron color badge.

3. Each scholar will have a membership card, which at the end of the year, will show the grading for the year in the Sunday School and for church attendance, and the number of new scholars brought into the school by the scholar.

Where scholars are sick, or out of the city for good reasons, allowance will be made for their absence. We hope that every teacher and scholar will have a perfect record for the year of '98, and have the honor of wearing the badge at the close of the year, and then go in for the four years, and win at last the badge with the four stars of gold.

DEATHS

JOHN FREDERICK KIBIGER, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Kibiger, died at the family residence, 105 Barr street, Friday morning, Dec. 24th. He was aged 31 years and 29 days. He leaves to mourn his death his mother, one sister and six brothers. The father and three sisters preceded him to eternity. The funeral services were held on Sabbath afternoon, Dec. 26th, from the Grace Reformed Church.

GEORGIA LOUISE, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Miller, residing at 124 East De Wald street, departed this life Dec. 24. She took ill with a malignant form of diphtheria and with every the effort that was made to save the life of the child, all was in vain, and death came in a few days. Her sufferings were, no doubt, intense, but she was patient and uncomplaining to the very end. Georgia was a happy and most affectionate little daughter, and she had won for herself the love and esteem in the home, in the school, and among all her associates. She was aged 6 years, 5 months and 16 days. She leaves to mourn her death her father and mother and one sister. This bereaved family has the sympathy and prayer of all their friends. This dear little one was for a few years the joy and sunshine of the home here, but now the Lord has taken her to the home beyond, where she will shine as the stars forever, and where in some day, by and by, we hope, the whole family may again be reunited.

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 Weekly Prayer Meeting Sabbath Evening at 6:45.

**PRAYER MEETING TOPICS AND
 LEADERS.**

Jan. 2—How to pray. Luke 11, 1-13.

Jan. 9—Our temptations and their conquest, Heb. 4, 11-16.

Jan. 16—Fishers of men; how to win souls, 1 John, 4, 7-13.

Jan. 23—Practical applications of the beatitudes, Matt. 5, 1-12. Anna Doermer.

Jan. 30—For Christ and the church; what shall we do? Ex. 35, 20-29; Luke 14, 13. Christian Endeavor day. A. K. Zartman.

Feb. 6—The Christian's confidence, 2 Sam., 22, 1-4; 1 Peter, 1, 3-9, Mary Rudisil.
 Feb. 13—Called to what? How? Isa. 6, 1-8; Mark, 1, 16-20. Josephine Zartman.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS AND
 GOLDEN TEXTS.**

Lesson 1, Jan. 2—Jesus and John. Matt. 3, 7-17. Golden Text, Matt. 3, 17.

Lesson 2, Jan. 9—Jesus Tempted. Matt. 4, 1-11. Golden Text, Heb. 2, 18.

Lesson 3, Jan. 16—Beginning of the Ministry of Jesus. Matt. 4, 17-25. Golden Text, Matt. 4, 16.

Lesson 4, Jan. 23—The Beatitudes. Matt. 5, 1-12. Golden Text, Matt. 5, 14.

Lesson 5, Jan. 30—How to Pray? Matt. 6, 5-15. Golden Text, Matt. 6, 6.

Lesson 6, Feb. 6—Our Father's Care. Matt. 6, 24-34. Golden Text, 1, Peter 5, 7.

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